

## REMARKS

The initial Office Action in the subject application rejected claims 1, 3, 5-7, and 9-15 but indicated that claims 2, 4 and 8 would be allowable subject to being placed into proper form.

The examiner's careful review of the application is appreciated and applicant's attorney has addressed all of the issues raised by the examiner in the initial Office Action.

Referring first to the objection to the specification, the examiner has noted that "a retainer" in claim 1 is not supported by the specification and that issue is believed resolved by amendment of claim 1 to delete reference to "a retainer" and substitute the term "barrel" which is used in the specification.

With regard to the recitation of a "flared portion" in claim 2, language has been inserted into the specification at page 4, line 28 to clarify what was intended by the term "flared portion". With regard to the use of the term "a second retainer" as recited in claim 5, that language has been amended to follow the language in the specification of "reciprocal movement limiting means". It is believed that these changes in the claims and specification overcome the examiner's objection for lack of antecedent basis.

The examiner has also objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The above identified amendments to the specification to address the use of the terms "the retainer, a second retainer, and a flared portion" are believed to overcome the objection to the drawings for this reason.

The examiner has also objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference characters not mentioned in the description. In particular, 70 and 86. With regard to the character 70, the character has been added at line 19, of page 4. In addition, the reference character 70 is also inserted in FIG. 5 to further help clarify the elements associated with that reference character. With regard to reference character 86, that character is described at line 17, of page 4 and at line 2, of page 5. It is believed that the examiner merely overlooked those numbers in the specification.

Applicant's attorney has reviewed all of the claim rejections raised by the examiner under 35 USC, Section 112 and believe that the amendment to the claims now address all of those objections. Accordingly, the Section 112 objections are now deemed to be moot.

Turning now to the rejection of claims 1 and 5-7 under 35 USC, Section 103, while applicant disagrees with the examiner's position that the invention as initially recited in claims 1 and 5-7 would not be obvious over the prior art, applicant has amended claim 1 by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, the rejection under Section 103 of claim 1 is deemed to be moot in view of the allowability of claim 2. Further, the rejection of claims 5-7 is believed to be moot since each of the claims are dependent claims and incorporate each of the elements of claim 1. Since claim 1 is in allowable form, each of claims 5-7 are likewise in allowable form.

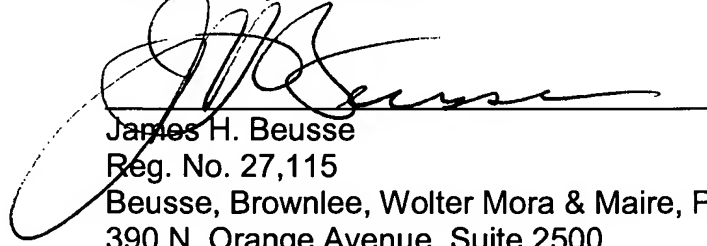
With regard to claim 3, this claim depends from claim 1 and thereby incorporates every element of claim 1. Since claim 1 is in condition for allowance, claim 3 is likewise allowable.

With regard to claims 9, 10, 12 and 14, independent claim 9 has been amended by incorporating the allowable subject matter from claim 2, thereby placing claim 9 in condition for allowance. Claims 10, 12 and 14 depend from claim 9 and are allowable at least for the reason that claim 9 contains allowable subject matter.

Claims 11, 13, and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103a but are dependent claims linked back to claim 9 which, as stated above, incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Accordingly, each of these dependent claims is also in condition for allowance.

For the reasons set forth above, all of the claims now pending in this application are in form for allowance and such allowance is solicited.

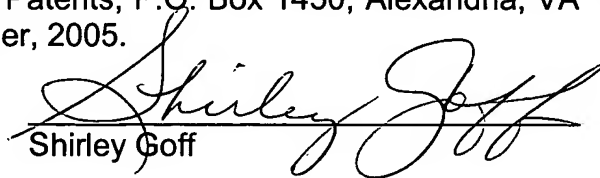
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Amendment is being mailed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2005.



Shirley Goff